



## LAUDATO SI ACTION PLAN REFLECTION

- St Therese is a two-stream school, with approximately 370 students and 30 staff. We pride ourselves on being a happy, calm school, where all students are provided with an environment conducive to effective learning and strong friendships. We aim to provide a broad education, focused on the important skills of Literacy and Numeracy, while not forgetting critical thinking, appreciation of the arts and knowledge of our world. Each child's spiritual needs are also taken into account by the provision of Religious Education, prayer, worship and reflection time.
- The charism of St Therese Catholic Primary School has its foundations in the Good Samaritan ethos, which includes love of learning. This Benedictine Charism also reminds us that all things are holy since they come from the hand of God and so we have a duty 'to cultivate and take care of' the good things of God's creation. This influences our engagement with stewardship and environmental action and education at our school.
- We are also influenced by the life of our Patron Saint, St Therese of Lisieux, from whom we take our motto "Love can do all things". Love translates to respect and showing compassion for others, all of creation and to have an outward-looking approach to life.
- Pope Francis in Laudato Si' reminds us that it is through the "little daily actions" that we can make a contribution to caring for our common home, which finds connections in the life of St Therese who made it her mission to live her life "doing the little things really well".
- This School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) is a tool that will enable us to document, implement, reflect and celebrate sustainability as we respond to the challenges from Laudato Si' to walk our own journey of ecological conversion. At St Therese we understand that we have a missionary and ecclesial mandate that impels us to participate and respond to the call to care for our common home with strategic planning, formation and concrete actions and it is within this context that this SEMP is formulated.

Since 2015 following the release of *Laudato Si'*, Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong has taken seriously Pope Francis' prophetic call for an ecological conversion and has proactively responded in a strategic, planned approach whereby sustainable practices and ecological values are promoted and supported across the system of schools in the Wollongong diocese.

St Therese Catholic Primary School plans to continue with ecological and sustainable practices.

Engagement with eco-spirituality, environmental education and action is a key component of our mission, of being Catholic and is viewed as "core business", not an "optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (LS n217)

This strategic approach has involved schools embedding ecological values into school programs and practices that promote an ecological and sustainable culture, encouraging everyone to live out his/her ecological vocation and engage in caring for our common home.

St Therese Catholic Primary follows the CEDoW Environmental Education Action Policy. Each year every grade actively participates in writing and implementing a unit of work based upon the requirements of the Environmental Education policy.

St Therese Catholic Primary School has completed a School Environment Management Plan (SEMP 1). WE have planned and are currently completing the goals outlined in SEM2 and will be ongoing till 2024 (2021-2024). Professional Development and Staff Formation in eco-spirituality, eco-theology and ecological conversion

The St Therese Catholic Primary School Staff has participated in a Staff Spirituality Day led by Beth Riolo - Who Is My Neighbour focussing on eco-spirituality, eco-theology and ecological conversion. This Professional Development guided and promoted a further understanding of Ecological Conversion.

St Therese Catholic Primary School will apply for a grant through the CEDoW Environmental Education Grants Program in December 2022.

St Therese Catholic Primary School is an active member of Wollongong Environment Network (WEN) that aims to support the school communities to respond to *Laudato Si'* and implement environmental stewardship and sustainability.

St Therese Catholic Primary School has attained a Level 3 Certification Earthcare School

- As part of our vision St Therese Catholic Primary School is inspired by Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement - Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor and Bishop Brian's Diocesan Pastoral Message. [Bishop Brian's Diocesan Pastoral Message](#)
- St Therese Catholic Primary School connects to the Laudato Si' Goals through the following;

#### RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

PARTICIPATION IN WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY,  
PARTICIPATION IN EARTH HOUR

#### RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

Socktober  
Engagement in Caritas' Project Compassion

#### ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

#### ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

Recycling Bins  
Return and Earn,  
Clean Up Australia Day

#### ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Units of work in programs across the the school K-6  
WEN Students Day

#### ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation  
Prayer at significant PD Days

#### COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT

St Vincent De Paul Food Hamper Drive

• At St Therese the community has been engaged in various environmental actions and initiatives.

The following is an outline of past environmental action:

- School wide recycling systems - BLUE (clean paper), YELLOW (recyclables), RED (landfill), GREEN (compost)
- Composting Area and Worm farm. Each class contributes to the compost each day with their crunch and sip fruit and vegetable scraps. This is maintained by Year Five students
- School Recycling Initiative: **Terracycle** - yoghurt pouches, toothbrushes, floss holders, toothpaste tubes, shampoo, conditioner and moisturiser bottles

- Water tank with the grey water used for toilet flushing
  - Solar panels on administration area roof
  - LED replacement lights throughout the school
  - Water cooler/refillable station for students
  - Catering changes - crockery for hospitality events involving parents/carers

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The following is an outline of future environmental actions: 2021-2023

**Action** Sharing of SEMP II and promotion of specific environmental actions that staff can be involved in.

**Action:** Create an award to be given to a student from each class who has exemplified care for God's creation and connection to the environment in both words and action.

**Action** Re-invigorate the Environmental Committee that includes both Teachers and Students. 2021

**Action** Explore avenues for sourcing an annual budget for environmental initiatives and maintenance as well as time allocation for WEN Contact responsibilities. 2021

**Action** Incorporate an environmental duty (supervision of the Environmental Student Committee around environmental actions) into the staff playground roster. 2021

**Action** Staff engage in Spirituality Day exploring ecological conversion, eco theology and eco spirituality. 2023

**Action** Staff engage in professional development on the seven goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform. 2023

**Action:** At Staff Meeting/or Stage meeting there is time given to check and update the following: key environmental unit for each Year level, identifying cross curriculum links for sustainability (and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander, Asia and Its Neighbours) programming, scope and sequences. 2023

**Action:** Staff to better utilise IT (Apple TV, google classroom) in lieu of photocopying and excess printing. (Ongoing)

**Action:** Develop Green Catering Procedures written for canteen, school and hospitality events. 2023

## ASSISI FRAMEWORK

St Therese Catholic Primary School has engaged in the Assisi Framework developed by the Catholic Earthcare Australia. This framework has focus areas and goals regarding ecological conversion, that is used in all ecological initiatives and plans. The five focus areas and related action are:

### Focus Area Goals (ASSISI Framework)

Across the focus areas the goals of this plan are:

#### 1. Whole School Planning

*Environmental Plan (SEMP), Strategic Plan, Governance, Policy, Environmental Team*

#### 2. Religious Dimension

*Catholic Social Teaching, Celebration, Liturgy, Prayer, Embedding of eco-theology and Catholic Social Teaching principles in RE Curriculum, Formation in eco-spirituality & theology*

#### 3. Teaching & Learning

*Curriculum, Syllabus Perspectives & Materials, Professional Development, Environmental education integrated into all stages and KLAs, Scope & Sequences for environmental education, Curriculum links to environmental action in school*

#### 4. Ethical Resource Use

*Individual and School Ecological Footprints, Administrative Practices, Waste Management - recycling, Green catering, purchasing, Audits*

#### 5. Caring for Country

*Physical surrounds & Maintenance, Biodiversity - Grounds developed to enhance environmental education - eg. "Outdoor Living Classroom", outdoor education, Landscaping (equipment, shade, safety and seating reflect an awareness and consideration of environmental impact)*

#### 6. Community Relationships

*Networks and Partnerships, Student Life*



**St Therese West Wollongong**

A Catholic Parish Primary School | Diocese of Wollongong

*Love can do all things*